CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 16 MARCH 1994 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE CONFERENCE ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT BY THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY CONCERNING THE DECISION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO EXTEND THE MORATORIUM ON NUCLEAR TESTING BY THE UNITED STATES THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1995

I have the honour to forward to you a Statement by the White House Press Secretary concerning the decision of the President of the United States to extend the moratorium on nuclear testing by the United States through September 1995.

Could you please take the appropriate steps to register this document as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament, and have it distributed to all member delegations and non-member States participating in the work of the Conference.

(Signed): Stephen J. Ledogar
Ambassador

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

15 March 1994

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

The President informed Congress yesterday that he was extending the moratorium on nuclear testing by the United States through September 1995.

The President's decision was based on fundamental United States national security interests, weighing the contribution further tests would make to improving the safety and reliability of the United States arsenal in preparation for a Comprehensive Test Ban (CTB) against:

- the restraint the other declared nuclear Powers have shown in not responding to China's nuclear test last October with tests of their own;

- the encouraging progress recorded in the CTB negotiations since they formally opened on 25 January; and

- the adverse implications further United States nuclear tests would have on our broader non-proliferation objectives, including, most notably, our interest in securing the indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty next year.

The President will decide next year whether to extend the moratorium beyond September 1995, taking into account the same four factors noted above.